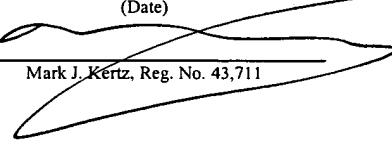




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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter T. McCarthy ) Group Art Unit: 3617  
 App. No. : 09/852,155 )  
 Filed : May 9, 2001 )  
 For : METHODS FOR CREATING )  
       LARGE SCALE FOCUSED )  
       BLADE DEFLECTIONS )  
 Examiner : Unknown )  
 ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
 ) marked attachments are being deposited with  
 ) the United States Postal Service as first-class  
 ) mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant  
 ) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
 ) 20231, on  
 ) January 17, 2002  
 ) (Date)  
 ) Mark J. Kertz, Reg. No. 43,711  
 ) 

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-72 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 73-242 as follows:

73. (NEW) A method for improving a swim fin, comprising:

- providing a foot attachment member;
- providing an active portion connected to said foot attachment member and forming a substantially forward extension of said foot attachment member, said active portion having a root portion adjacent to said foot attachment member and a blade free end portion remote from said root portion and said foot attachment member, said active portion having a longitudinal midpoint between said root portion and said free end portion, said active portion having a first half portion between said root portion and said

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